

RADIO SHOW – National Sickle Cell Awareness Month

I'm Dr. Howard Rodenberg, state health director with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and this is the Healthy Kansas Minute.

The month of September is National Sickle Cell Awareness Month. Sickle cell is a chronic blood disease that causes the red blood cells to become crescent shaped and function abnormally. African Americans are at greatest risk, with the disease affecting 1 out of 400. However, sickle cell has been found in all racial and ethnic groups. Sickle cell disease is inherited within families and is not contagious.

Sickle cell damages the kidneys, lungs, bones, liver and central nervous system. People who have sickle cell may also experience episodes of acute pain and discomfort. The good news is that in Kansas all newborns are tested for sickle cell disease at birth. Counseling and treatment options are available. If you have questions about sickle cell, be sure to ask your doctor.

To learn more about health in Kansas, please visit www.kdheks.gov. That's www.kdheks.gov. This has been the Healthy Kansas Minute!